

VZCZCXRO7627
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DE RUEHL #0653/01 0441344
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5083
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8143
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7240
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2791
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 8935
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4806
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 3496
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 000653

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/29/2033

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PTER](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S MADRASSAS

Classified By: Political Counselor Candace Putnam (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: The majority of Pakistan's 15,000-16,000 madrassas are registered religious schools that provide some level of learning combir
Madrassa Overview

[1](#)2. (C) Madrassas are privately run Islamic schools. Reliable estimates put the number of madrassas in Pakistan at around 15,000 to 16,000. The

[1](#)3. (C) Most of the madrassas in Pakistan are legitimate education centers; only a handful operate as jihadi recruitment centers. Post previous

[1](#)4. (U) The quality of teaching varies greatly at madrassas, with some offering an education that is comparable in quality and curricula to son

[1](#)5. (C) Private contributions fund almost all madrassa operations, but the level and sources of this funding remains unconfirmed. Many contacts

Madrassa Organization and Oversight

[1](#)6. (C) Five wafaqs (oversight boards) manage the curricula and direction of their affiliated sectarian madrassas: the Wafaq Madaras al-Arabia

[1](#)7. (C) MORA has administrative responsibility over madrassas; the Ministry of Education (MOE), however, in the past has tried to implement spe

Madrassa Reform: Past, Present, and Future

[1](#)8. (C) Prior to 2001, the wafaqs initiated a round of reforms on their own, mostly focusing on the introduction of secular subjects to increas

[1](#)9. (C) The government has achieved modest success registering madrassas in the past two years. Following the July 2005 London bombings, Mushe
The government also has expelled most foreign madrassa students.

[1](#)10. (C) The government has been less successful, however, in implementing other elements of Musharraf's now-scrapped reform plan, such as leg

[1](#)11. (C) The Secretary of MORA said the government scrapped its the MRP because Musharraf did not want to continue pushing contentious reforms

[1](#)12. (C) Secretary Khan was optimistic about legislating other reform initiatives in 2008, but the issues he raised all suggested more challer

[1](#)13. (C) Comment: While the government achieved some modest success in convincing the wafaqs to register the madrassas under their jurisdiction
PATTERSON